

riders. Relays of saddle horses were kept at the overland mail stations, ready for instant use. One of the riders, coming into a station at full gallop, would jump from the back of his jaded steed, leave it in care of grooms waiting to receive it, and flinging himself across a fresh mount, be off with almost the swiftness of the wind, hugging closely the precious missives waited for along the line or at the remote extremity



THE PONY EXPRESS.

of the route. No one rider, of course, could make the through trip without sleep. At certain points fresh riders as well as fresh horses were supplied.

The Pony Express—otherwise known as the Pony Telegraph—brought Utah into six days' communication with the frontier, and within seven days of the

national capital. The first rider from the West reached Salt Lake City on the seventh of April; the first from the East, on the evening of the ninth. Two had set out on the night of the third, one from Sacramento, and the other from St. Joseph. The Pony Express did not originate in Utah, but the Territory furnished a full share of the riders. James E. Bromley, Howard Egan and H. J. Faust were among the prominent names connected with the enterprise in this region.*

Rumors of War. News of a stirring nature was soon brought by the Pony Express. The air was filled with rumors of war. Events in the East had been hastening to a crisis, and the great conflict that was destined to split the nation and shake the earth with its thunder, was just about to begin. The direct result to Utah was the withdrawal of the Federal troops from the Territory.*

*The Pony Express made two hundred and fifty miles in twenty-four hours, while the mail coach made one hundred or one hundred and twenty-five miles. There were eighty riders and four hundred horses, and eight messengers were kept constantly in the saddle. One of the most noted of the riders was "Buffalo Bill" (Colonel William F. Cody) who conducted in later years the celebrated "Wild West Show."

†Many believed that Johnston's army would not have been sent to Utah but for the plotting of the Secessionist leaders at Washington. President Buchanan was not one of them. He denied the right of a State to secede. But the Secretary of War, John B. Floyd, was a rank Secessionist and became a Confederate general. As a member of the President's Cabinet, Floyd did all in his power to scatter the armed forces of the United States, in order to make it easy for the Southern States to withdraw from the Union and seize upon the Government arsenals and public military stores within their borders. See "Library of Universal Knowledge," Volume Six, page 73, for data upon this point. See also James G. Blaine's "Twenty Years in Congress."